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DATE: June 30, 2004
OUR REFERENCE: UMJ-101-A
TO: USPTO
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FACSIMILE NO.: (703) 746-4000
FROM: Julia Church Dierker
RE: Serial No. 09/255,963; Confirmation No. 9213
PAGES TO FOLLOW: -16-
MESSAGE: Please enter the enclosed 1.312 Amendment and
Issue Fee in the above-identified application.

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Our Reference: UMJ-101-A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Peter X. Ma
Serial Number: 09/255,963
Filing Date: February 23, 1999
Confirmation No.: 9213
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Sumesh Kaushal/1636
Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL HYDROGEL/CELL SYSTEM

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sir:

Transmitted with this document is an Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.312;
Fee(s) Transmittal (PTOL-85) and "Fee Address" Indication Form in the
above-identified application.

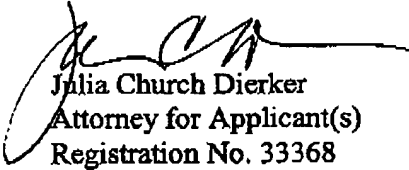
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Respectfully submitted,

DIERKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.


Julia Church Dierker
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3331 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 109
Troy, Michigan 48084-2813
Dated: June 30, 2004
JCD/hmp/slc



Our Reference: UMJ-101-A (UM-1476)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Peter X. Ma
Serial Number: 09/255,963
Filing Date: February 23, 1999
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Sumesh Kaushal, Ph.D./1636
Confirmation No.: 9213
Title: THREE-DIMENSIONAL HYDROGEL/CELL
SYSTEM

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.312

ATTN: BOX ISSUE FEES
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.312, please enter the following Amendment to the above-identified application.

In the specification:

For the paragraph at page 8, lines 22-27, please revise as follows:

Alginate gels have not been reported as scaffolds to engineer tissues *in vitro*, probably due to the difficulties in controlling the mechanical properties, shape and size in a cell culture environment. The present invention ~~describ~~ describes methods and compositions related to the use of ionically crosslinked alginate gels as scaffolds with defined dimensions for *in vitro* tissue engineering applications, that are controlled and reproducible.